

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/009964



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MC 5697PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/009964	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 08 September 2003 (08.09.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 13 September 2002 (13.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01R 13/62		
Applicant MAGCODE AG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)	Date of completion of this report 17 December 2004 (17.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

national application No.

PCT/EP2003/009964

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 1-11 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____ 1-17 _____, filed with the letter of 07 August 2004 (07.08.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1/1 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL P¹MINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/09964

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. PRIOR ART

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: DE-A-199 30 642 (MAGCODE) 4 January 2001
(2001-01-04)
- D2: US-B1-6 264 473 (A. BULLINGER ET AL.)
24 July 2001 (2001-07-24)
- D3: US-A-5 401 175 (R. GUIMOND ET AL.) 28 March
1995 (1995-03-28)
- D4: US-A-5 015 061 (G. M. GIANNINI) 14 May 1991
(1991-05-14).

The closest prior art is considered to be the connecting device known from DE-A-199 30 642 (D1).

The subject matter of claim 3 differs from the prior art in that:

F1: there is provided an approximate guide mechanism in the form of a mechanical connection with excessive play between the connecting members of the connection to allow for tolerances, and a precision guide mechanism with exact positioning and centring by means of the magnetic forces of

attraction between the magnetic bodies of the current supply unit and the magnetic bodies of the current consumer unit.

2. OBJECTIVE TECHNICAL PROBLEM

The objective technical problem could be considered that of providing a connecting device that will readily produce a complete, reliable and permanent electrical connection between a current supply unit and a current consumer unit.

3. SOLUTION

The solution to this problem is provided by the features of claim 3; see especially feature F1.

4. NOVELTY, INVENTIVE STEP AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

- 4.1 The technical solution is not suggested by the specified prior art. D2 discloses connecting members (centring members) which are designed only for accurate-fit alignment so that a correct electrical connection can be produced; and that rules out excessive play to allow for tolerances. Furthermore, for a person skilled in the art a combination of D1 and D2 does not suggest the subject matter of claim 3.

The subject matter of claim 3 is likewise not disclosed in D3 or D4, and there is no reason to combine D1 to D4 in order to solve the problem of interest. In the light of the available prior art cited in the international search report (D1 to D4), therefore, the subject matter of claim 3 is novel

[PCT Article 33(2)] and also involves an inventive step [PCT Article 33(3)].

4.2 Claim 1 discloses a connecting method which follows from the structure of the novel and inventive device in claim 3. Claim 1 is therefore novel [PCT Article 33(2)] and also involves an inventive step [PCT Article 33(3)].

4.3 Claims 2 and 4 to 17 are dependent on claims 1 and 3 respectively and therefore likewise satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(1).

4.4 The subjects of claims 1 to 17 are industrially applicable [PCT Article 33(4)].